



THE MARA VOICE

MAKING WAVES IN A DIGITAL WORLD

PO Box 873131, Wasilla, AK 99687

website: <http://kl7jfu.com/>

facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/don.bush.3388>

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

SPOTLIGHT— JOHN MEARS, AL7LA, SILENT KEY by Don Bush and Shelia Olson

This month's spotlight will be on a dear friend and club mentor, John Mears, AL7LA.



John was a teacher, and as a retired college professor, he used every opportunity as a chance to teach, demonstrate, or pass along things that develop this type of person and promoted ham radio. John was an old school ham that we can't afford to lose. We need to make sure we pass on his skills and attitudes about ham radio to the newer hams.



“John understood people and didn't mind telling what he thought, but along with that, explain his opinion.” Don Bush

Spotlight continued to page 6

OFFICERS REPORTS

PRESIDENT— Scott McCormick, KL7SLM

Mid year greetings

As we move into the later half of the year, MARA has a few events and projects coming up in which we are looking for volunteers to help facilitate these fun and education outreach events.

August 29th, we will be starting our luncheons back up, located at Denali Family Restaurant at 1130. This is a good time to meet with folks to get an idea as to what is coming up in the club. **August 30th** will be the first MARA general meeting after the summer break, and during this meeting we will be discussing the following upcoming events and projects.

As school starts up we will be looking for folks to help with Palmer Junior Middle School's amateur radio club. Currently the school has the equipment for the HF station along with a VHF/UHF DMR station and will need help on the installation of antennas on the school. **Also Mr. Crume KL5LD would like to have folks come in to help teach the basics or share their areas of expertise in the hobby.** This program currently has successfully licensed one new ham, and at the end of the school year had three to four students that were close to being ready to test. Scott KL7SLM is the point of contact for this outreach event which will continue through the school year.

September 7th, is MARA's ham-fest which is going to take place out at the Big Lake Lion's Club Recreation Center. This is a great place to help fund that new piece of equipment for the shack or to pick up that first radio with out the new prices. Currently we are looking for some one to help coordinate the event. If you are interested in helping, please contact Shelia KL3SRO.

September 28th, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough will be holding their annual Emergency Preparedness Expo held at the Menard Center in Wasilla. MARA will have both of the trailers on display to showcase our capabilities to communicate during and after an emergency for this event we will need at least four (4) folks to help setup the trailers along with folks to help answer questions about amateur radio. Don KL7JFT is the point of contact for this event.

October 19-20, we will have the Boy Scouts Jamboree On the Air (JOTA), this is another outreach aimed towards the youth and trying to spark interest in amateur radio. MARA will need at least four folks to help setup the trailers on Friday the 19th and on the 20th we will would like folks to come out and assist with getting scouts on the air along with answering any questions that they or the chaperons may have along with one two folks that can operate packet radio from the QTH to have conversations with the scouts via packet. Don KL7JFT is the point of contact for this event.

October 25th is MARA's annual meeting in which elections will be held for the board of directors. This is a great way to help guide the organization to the future of amateur radio.

Keep watch on the MARA webpage www.KL7JFU.com, MARA Voice, and or the Mukluk Telegraph. 73

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OFFICERS REPORTS

VICE PRESIDENT/VE — Ken Hudson, KL2HF

Please contact me by email with your ideas or suggestions for presentations at radiohamming@gmail.com.

SECRETARY/EVENT PLANNER/NEWSLETTER EDITOR — Shelia Olson, KL3SRO

I welcome your assistance with any of our Club events plus if you want to provide information or suggestions for topics to share with readers, please contact me at the email okfam@hotmail.com.

TREASURER— John Carrington, KL1XM

MARA Club Membership Dues in the amount of \$24 can be paid in person at a meeting, mailed, or on the club website at <http://kl7jfu.com>. Payments can be cash, check, or credit card on the website by clicking the "Donate" link. A new window where you type in the amount and whether it will be PayPal or credit card.

ARRL dues can also be paid through the Club and we get a percent of the funds back.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALWAYS CHECK THE CLUB WEBSITE FOR UPDATED INFO ON OUR EVENTS

<http://kl7jfu.com/calendar/>

OR CONTACT CLUB EVENT PLANNER, Shelia at email okfam@hotmail.com

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AUGUST

- MOTLEY PICNIC 8/2-4 (see Page 5)
- BOARD MEETING 8/14 at 7pm
- VE TESTING 8/24 at 7pm
- LUNCHEON 8/29 at 11:30am
- GENERAL MEETING 8/30 at 7pm



OCTOBER

- BOARD MEETING 10/9 at 7pm
- JOTA 10/19-20
- LUNCHEON 10/24 at 11:30am
- ANNUAL ELECTIONS MEETING 10/25 at 7pm
- VE TESTING 10/26 at 7pm



SEPTEMBER

- HAM FEST 9/7 at 10am
- BOARD MEETING 9/11 at 7pm
- LUNCHEON 9/26 at 11:30am
- GENERAL MEETING 9/27 at 7pm
- EMERGENCY PREP EXPO 9/28 at 10am
- VE TESTING 9/28 at 7pm



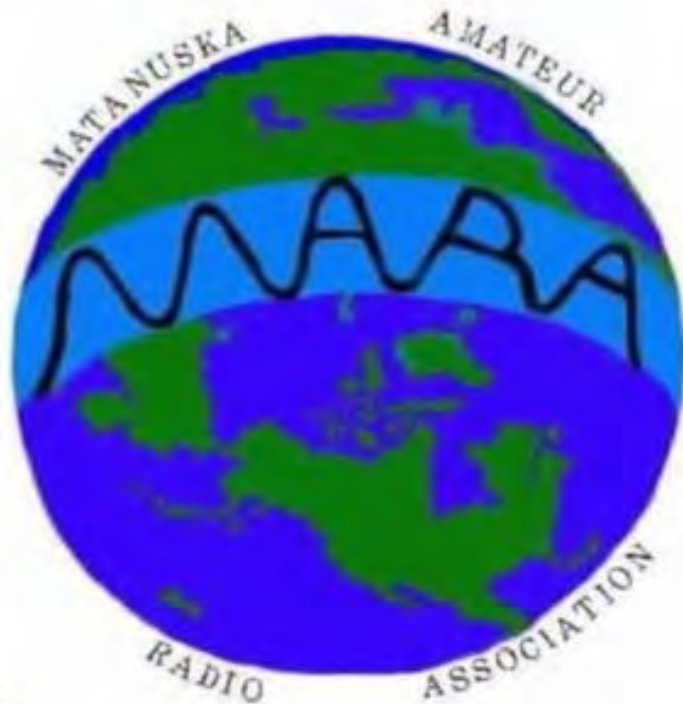
MARA INFORMATION AND HISTORY

The Matanuska Amateur Radio Association (MARA) is a 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable organization that has been around since 1977.

The club was created by Norm Dietz, KL7IPJ; Milt Souter, KL7IPA; Doug Olive, KL7IKN; John Miller, AL7AA; Mike Eppler, KL7ILA; and Rosana Eppler, KL7IRE.

The Club added 12 full members: Brian Crawford Jr, KL7JDQ; Roy Davie, KL7CUK; Wayne Groomer, KL7HHO; Logan Groomer, KL7EKI; Jasper Heath, KL7MD; Frank Knapp, KL7DOB; Lyman Klein, WA0GAC; Don Bush, KL7JFT; Roy Mesecher, KL7BZ; Walt Pierce, Nate Smith, KL7DJE; and Rick Dwight, KL7CW;

as well as 7 associate (non-licensed) members: Tom Berticevich, Gerry Dietz, Max Elliott, Sharon Groomer, Pomposa Heath, James Kinser, and Mickey Olive.



Parks on the Air (POTA) started in 2017 and stemmed from the yearly ARRL event. It has grown to be an internationally utilized program for portable operations and maintained its affiliation with ARRL.

In the coming year, the MARA Club will be set up a few locations with “activators” who set equipment at the established location and “hunters” who search from home to talk with the activators and other hunters. The events will be open to Club members as well as the community. The hope is to have regular, scheduled events and get our Club on the POTA map. If interested in participating, contact Brandon, KL7BCS at kl7bsc@protonmail.com For more information on how to join or to donate to POTA, go to website <https://parksontheair.com/> or get the book shown below The Parks on the Air through ARRL



The Parks on the Air® Book explores the process of activating a park unit and hunting those activations. Through the experiences of 14 operators, it offers advice and motivation for taking your radio out to the park and becoming active in the growing POTA community.

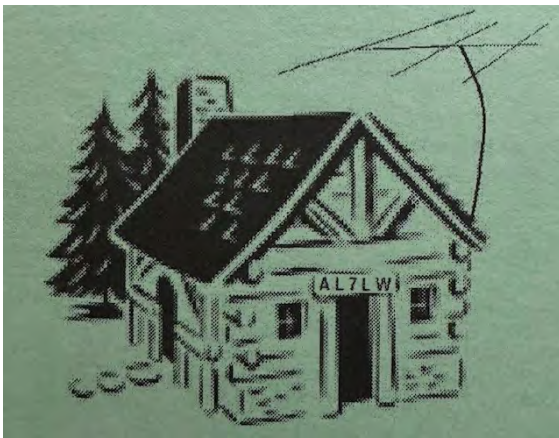
COMMUNITY EVENTS

MOOSEHORN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 16th Annual Kenai Peninsula HAMFEST

Saturday, August 24, 2024 10AM to 4:00PM
Kenai American Legion Hall
902 Cook Ave. Kenai, Alaska 99611
Contact: Hamfest Chair - Ed Cole KL7UW. (907) 776-5829



ALASKA MOTLEY GROUP PICNIC — 2024 aka Motley Picnic — Aug 2 to 4



Tolsona Wilderness Campground, Mile 173 Glenn Hwy, tolsonacampground.com/ 907-822-3900 Camping fee for attendees of the group attending during the picnic is \$35 per night for RV sites, which includes water and electricity. Showers and laundry are also available at the campground.

If you have not reserved a site, do so NOW. Tell them you are with the “Motley Group.”

This will be the 42nd annual Motley Picnic. There are typically 60 to 80 attendees each year. All amateur radio operators as well as their families and friendly pets are welcome to attend.

Fish, hike, relax at your campsite, chat with other Hams, and participate in as many of the following scheduled activities as you choose.

THURSDAY, 1700 hours - EARLY BIRD GET-TOGETHER - Bring snacks to share and beverage of your choice. Dee Bowns, the Motley Group historian, will provide an opportunity for you to page through photo albums and recall people and events from previous years. Your photos are welcome.

FRIDAY, 1130 hours - LADIES LUNCHEON - Campground pavilion - Potluck.

FRIDAY, 1700 hours - BAKED POTATO BAR & CHINESE AUCTION The Motley Group will provide potatoes and the participants provide toppings to share. Topping ideas: butter, sour cream, bacon, chili, cheese, diced veggies (raw or cooked), etc. Bring food and item(s) for Chinese auction - “gag gifts” always welcome.

SATURDAY, 1100 hours - SNIPERS NET MEETING - Net Control & Sweep Operators.

SATURDAY, 1300 - 1500 hours - AMATEUR RADIO WORKSHOP - An open-forum discussion of antennas and other ham radio related items. Show & tell one of your radio projects.

SATURDAY, 1300 - 1500 hours - LADIES BOARD GAMES AND CARD GAMES

SATURDAY, 1700 hours - THE MOTLEY PARTY - Potluck dinner, awards presentation, door prize drawings, and outcry auction. For outcry auction bring equipment you would like sold at auction. Motley Group will keep 25% of the sale price, or you can donate the item and the Motley Group will keep 100%. You can specify a reserve price if you choose.

SUNDAY, 0900 hours - FAREWELL BREAKFAST - Pancakes, syrup and butter provided. Attendees are welcome to contribute precooked meat, scrambled eggs, fruit, pastries, etc.



His teaching methods were not laid back at all. He didn't just read the book to students, but instead would give them an assignment pertaining to that day's lecture so they could gain better understanding and form their own opinions, then he would discuss with them possibly what may of been wrong or what was ok, but made sure everyone left with more than they came with and wanted to come back for more.

During classes, John drew various wiring schematics on the board, provided detailed explanations and do pop quizzes. He was also open to any impromptu in-class discussions whenever students needed, regarding topics in the text book or the lectures and made sure the students grasped the learning objectives before moving on to another topic.



John would show up for almost all of the club activities and lend a hand where needed. Whether it be digging out the trailers, working on the trailers, setting up or tear down during deployments or helping new hams learn what was expected and teach ham radio ethics.

Spotlight continued to page 7

His many decades on the board, most while he was a club officer, provided an excellent opportunity to be an advisor to the club members and on many occasions was the "lets try something new" type of individual to further the clubs activities. He also believed the board should meet in person since it was a better way to get business done. Meetings during covid meant via zoom and he opted out even with the offer of a home-cooked meal.

John worked a lot with outside agencies that wanted to learn ham radio and being our chief instructor taught a lot of those classes. John would attend the test sessions of his students and cheer them on from the back of the room. He would always point out new students that were unusually gifted and took to ham radio like a duck to water.

Celebration of Life for John will be held at the 2024 MARA Club Ham Fest, Big Lake Lions Club on September 7, 2024.



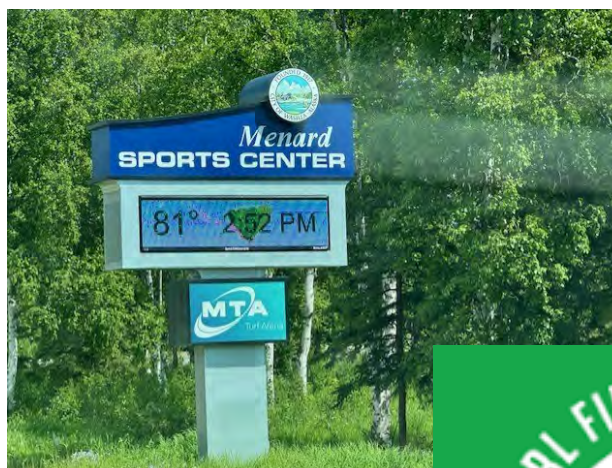
73s John and God Bless

MARA CLUB IN THE FIELD

FIELD DAY & ANNUAL PICNIC 2024

This year we held an abridged version of field day and included our annual picnic during that time. It was a scorcher at 81 degrees at 3ish pm. There were 38 who signed the attendance log and another 12 who attended, and watched demonstrations of various field equipment, feasted, asked questions, and took a few brochures. We sold t-shirts, decals, and patches. There were several who attended the test session.

A very big **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped set up of the trailers, brought vittles, helped during the day to keep things moving, thanks to our William (Scott's son) who always helped with a smile wherever needed at the t-shirt table or making sure people signed in, Mark for handling the door prize tickets, John and Betty Carrington for supplying the grill, Don for supplying extra scooter, and thank you to all who helped me grill the burgers and hotdogs while I scurried around coordinating things.

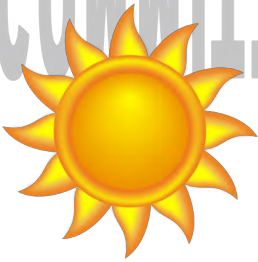


FIELD DAY & ANNUAL PICNIC 2024 continued



COMMITTEE REPORTS

SUNSHINE



If you know of anyone in the MARA club who is under the weather or recovering from illness or injury, please contact the club Secretary, Shelia Olson, KL3SRO by email at okfam@hotmail.com to request a card and/or flowers be sent to the person to help cheer them up. We also provide cards and/or flowers to the families of Silent Keys.

ARES

Don Bush, KL7JFT, Alaska DEC, and facilitator for the ARES efforts in the Mat-Su Valley.



Weekly communication nets are held every Thursday promptly at 8pm on 147.300 or 147.330 or 146.670 depending on the cooperation of the airwaves.

More information on all NETS is on page 10.

There are monthly trainings and quarterly communication exercises.

To be a member of ARES or obtain any of the training or exercise information, contact Don at kl7jft@gmail.com.

TRAILER

MARA Club has two trailers, one with the equipment for communications and the other for power support and the antenna tower as shown below.



The trailers are kept ready to use for the radio-related communication needs of the club or by request from ARES, Mat-Su Borough, or Statewide for any emergency.

VOLUNTEER EXAMINER (VE)

Amateur radio licensing exams are held each month, usually on the last Saturday at the Wasilla Area Senior Center, Inc. (WASI).

Ken Hudson, our lead VE, and other VEs attend the test sessions, review, and score the exams. Once exam is passed, Ken submits the necessary documentation to the FCC.



OTHER WAYS WE MAKE WAVES

BE PREPARED—ESPECIALLY IN ALASKA

Being in Alaska, we all need to be a prepper that meets the needs of our families and our budgets. But where to go, what to get, where to store what we get.....so much to consider.

Ready.gov, an official US Government website, <https://www.ready.gov> provides a plethora of information to include: making a written plan for any type or size of emergency, preparing a kit for each member of the household, with lists of items to consider no matter the season, and buying/gathering supplies and storage options. But where to buy supplies and storage options.

One place you could start is our local Sportsman's Warehouse (I am not an employee there, just passing on the information). You can shop online, on the app, have things shipped to wherever needed and where they deliver, or go in the store to see and feel the items, their weight, their dimensions to better gauge what will work in your situation. Their website is <https://www.sportsmans.com>.

Another source is researching through the Buyers Guide (also not an employee of this company) that has a list of reviewed emergency food suppliers. Their website is <https://buyersguide.org/emergency-food-supply-reviews>.

BECOME A SKYWARN WEATHER SPOTTER

Given the constant changes in Alaska weather, MARA Club members are invited to become trained to become a Skywarn Weather Spotter.

Once trained, you can submit your reports of what you see, as well as road/river conditions in your area via winlink to Harry Lind, Jr, AL6F, the Skywarn Manager located in Fairbanks and a copy to Don Bush, KL7JFT, DEC for Mat-Su Emergency Services.

Skywarn provides the training. The links to specific trainings as well as maps and other great tidbits of information and additional trainings concerning weather and the Skywarn program can be found on the MARA Club website at <http://kl7jfu.com/weather-spotter-training-skywarn-maps/>

When you have completed trainings, provide a copy of the certificate to Don at kl7jft@gmail.com.

If you need winlink training, please contact Don Bush.



SKYWARN
WEATHER.GOV®

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NETS

From website <http://kl7jfu.com/nets/>

Repeater Nets, VHF-FM

Sunday 2000 hrs 146.43 Mhz Simplex MATSU Old Timers Net Open Check ins and discussions
Monday 1930 hrs DMR Net, AK Statewide TG 3102 Statewide Net General DMR Discussion
Monday 2000hrs 146.58 Mhz Simplex Valley North Net Contact: Hal/KLOWX
Wednesday 1900hrs 146.52 Mhz Simplex South Central Simplex Net Contact: Various Freqs. KL7AA/KL7TS
Thursday 2000hrs 147.330 Mhz Plus Shift, 103.5hz Tone ARES Net

This is the main emergency VHF net. You do not have to belong to the ARES group to check in, There are different themes each week, such as Hand Held/Cross Band, Mobile, Red Cross and Emergency Power. Listen for theme at the beginning of each NET. Alternate/backup NET Freq. is 147.30 + shift/141.3hz Tone

WINSystem

Daily 2200hrs 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone Insomniac Net
It's a Trivia Net. Usually 3 questions & 3 Answers to choose from each question. There's a different Net Controller for every night. Check in 2 weeks in a row with each individual Controller to get on the list. You can also sign up for the questions to be emailed to you each night
Tuesday 1600hrs 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone East Coast Reflector Tech/Check-in Net
Friday 1730-1930hrs 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone WINSYSTEM Tech Net
w/Gordon West, usually for the first hour, Ron WB6IAG "Antenna Specialist" & hosted by Steve N5ZUA
Friday 1930hrs 146.790 Mhz Minus Shift, 100.0 Tone Swap Net following the WINSYSTEM Tech Net

Packet Nets

Anytime 147.960 Mhz / simplex 1200 baud Packet Peanut Gallery (PPG)
Anytime another 2 meter net is in progress. Connect to "valley" and type "talk".
Anytime 145.01 Mhz / Simplex 1200 Baud
Anytime another 2 meter net is in progress. Connect to "eagle" and type "talk".
Anytime 145.01 Mhz / Simplex 1200 Baud
Open Packet Network for South Central AK. Homer-Anchorage-Matsu Links thru KL7ION-2, KL7AIR-7, KL7JFT-7, KL7XZ (Some Nodes have BBS on -1)

Simplex Chat

National 146.520 Mhz Mat-Su Valley 146.430 Mhz Trapper Creek/Talkeetna 146.58 Mhz
Anchorage 146.490 Mhz Kenai Peninsula 146.420 Mhz

HF Nets

Monday – Friday 0830 hrs 14.292 Mhz USB Alaska Pacific Net Directed Net
Monday 2000 hrs 3.920 Mhz LSB Willow CERTs Net Open check in
Daily 1800 hrs 3.920 Mhz LSB Alaska Sniper's Net Directed Net
Daily 2000 hrs 7.093 Mhz LSB Alaska Bush Net Open check in
Daily 2100 hrs 3.933 Mhz LSB Alaska Motley Net Open check in
Saturday 1000 hrs 3.920 Mhz LSB Alaska Swap Net Open check in. Contact: Dean/WL7PM
Monday – Friday 1200 hrs 3.920 Mhz LSB Alaska Old Timers Net Open check in
4th Saturday of month 1000 hrs 5167.5 Mhz USB Alaska Emergency Frequency
Open check in § 97.401 Operation during a disaster. A station in, or within 92.6 km (50 nautical miles) of, Alaska may transmit emissions J3E and R3E on the channel at 5.1675 MHz (assigned frequency 5.1689 MHz) for emergency communications. The channel must be shared with stations licensed in the Alaska-Private Fixed Service. The transmitter power must not exceed 150 W PEP. A station in, or within 92.6 km of, Alaska may transmit communications for tests and training drills necessary to ensure the establishment, operation, and maintenance of emergency communication systems.